

Specifically, the Restriction Requirements sets forth three (3) allegedly distinct inventions which are labeled with Roman numerals I-III in the outstanding Office Action.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group II (claims 1, 4, and 6-9 drawn to a compound of formula II, plant-activating agent, classified in class 504, subclass 320).

Applicants traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement, since no undue burden would be placed upon the Examiner to consider each of Applicants pending claims 1-9 at present. In the respect, each of the alleged distinct inventions include claims 1 and 6-9 with the only difference between the three being whether claims 3, 4, or 5 are included therein. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Restriction Requirement and an examination of each of claims 1-9 at present is appropriate.

Applicants have also been requested to elect a single species for purposes of instituting a search. In response to this request, Applicant's elect "stearic acid" as disclosed in Table A1 at page 31 of the specification. (See inventive product A1-3.)

Claims readable on the elected invention are believed to be as follows: Claims 1, 4, and 6-9.

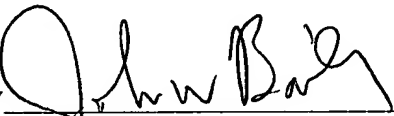
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
John W. Bailey, #32,881

JWB/jeb
0425-0836P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 01/02/02)